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Long Term Care Development Projects

PATIENT CLASSIFICATION PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT NO. 6

SEPTEMBER 1988



Ready to launch!

This issue of the patient classification progress report launches Alberta's new Patient Classification System for Long-Term Care Facilities. We've eagerly awaited this moment for some time and suddenly things are *really moving!* Because this will be such a major change to the province's long-term care system, and since the project is rapidly progressing, we want to keep you informed about what is happening. To aid in this communication process, we will step up the pace of how often these progress reports are issued over the next few months. The tremendous amount of field involvement in

this project has been one of the keys to its success. This is *your* newsletter; if there is something you want to know, we want to hear from you!

Where Are We Now?

Where Have We Come From?

Where Are We Going?

(Phases in the implementation process)

Phase 1: Development of the Patient Classification System — Completed

The Patient Classification System (or tool) was developed over a period of about a year and a half, beginning in January of 1986. The tool has been described in previous progress reports and at information sessions held in 1986 and 1987, and favourable evaluations of it have been received from outside the province. The Panel of Experts from the Alberta long-term care field and the study team who together developed the tool can be proud of their final product. Congratulations on a job well done!

Phase 2: Development of the Patient Classification-Based Funding System — Well on its Way

Once the tool had been developed, the next step was to work out how the information provided by the tool could be used as the basis for a new funding system for nursing care in the province's nursing

homes and auxiliary hospitals. This process began with the Patient Classification Pilot Study carried out last fall (see Progress Report No. 5 for pilot study results). After reviewing the results, the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care approved the initiation of a consultation process with the field on the development of the new funding system. The Department began meeting with representatives from the Alberta Hospital Association and Alberta Long-Term Care Association in June of this year, and will continue to do so until the funding system is finalized.

Phase 3: Implementation of the Overall System — Here We Go!

The first step towards actually putting in place these changes is to use the tool to determine the levels of care required by all nursing home and auxiliary hospital residents in the province. This process begins in September and is described in the remaining sections of this newsletter. Once the classifications are completed, the information will be used to finalize the funding formula. If approval is then given, the new funding system is expected to be put in place in early 1989. We're almost there!

Province-Wide Classification

(Where we are now)

The first province-wide classification will be carried out in September and October of this year. Medicus Canada has been contracted to undertake this task. To help ensure accurate results under the rather tight timelines this year, facilities have been asked to assist by completing two items from the Patient Classification Form prior to the arrival of classifiers in their facility. Information bulletins explaining the

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classification process and detailing facilities' responsibilities have been sent to all nursing homes and auxiliary hospitals in the province. All of these facilities should also have received four copies of the Patient Classification Form and its instruction manual.

Nursing homes and auxiliary hospitals will be contacted by Medicus to arrange for the scheduling of classifying in their facility. A tentative schedule (as of mid-August) for when classifiers will be in your region is as follows:

- Edmonton and area (including Red Deer):
September 2 – October 28
- Calgary and area: September 6 – October 28
- Medicine Hat region: September 6 – October 14
- Lethbridge region: September 6 – October 14
- Grande Prairie region: September 6 – 30
- Peace River region: September 6 – 30
- Central Alberta (except Red Deer): September 19 – October 28

Information Workshops

(Coming soon to a location near you!)

The Department of Hospitals and Medical Care is planning to hold information sessions in six locations across the province immediately following the completion of province-wide classifying. The purpose of these workshops will be to go over some of the concepts behind the proposed funding system and to discuss the proposed implementation plan. A preliminary agenda for these workshops is as follows:

A.M.

- Overview of objectives, concepts and benefits behind the proposed patient classification funding system

P.M.

- Detailed review of the Patient Classification System
- Concurrent sessions for nursing, rehabilitation and finance staff members

Board members, administrators and facility staff will be interested in the morning's session. The

afternoon of the workshops will be devoted to a more detailed review of the classification and funding systems and the target audience will be nursing home and auxiliary hospital nursing, rehabilitation and finance staff. We hope that as many facility staff as possible will be able to attend these workshops.

Tentative dates and locations for the workshops are provided below. Facilities will be provided with more details on these sessions once the final arrangements have been made.

November 1	-	St. Paul
November 3	-	Red Deer
November 8	-	Grande Prairie
November 10	-	Lethbridge
November 15	-	Edmonton
November 17	-	Calgary

Contact Persons (Who do I call if...?)

The Long-Term Care Services Unit of the department has now appointed a permanent Patient Classification Coordinator for the province. This position will be filled by Corinne Schalm, effective September 1, 1988. Corinne will be your first contact for questions regarding the Patient Classification System. Questions on the proposed funding system can be directed to Rulon Meldrum, who is the Long-Term Care Unit's Financial Services Manager. Vivien Lai, the Acting Director of the Long-Term Care Unit, would also be glad to answer any of your questions on this major new initiative. All three of these individuals can be contacted at:

Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care
Long-Term Care Services Unit
Hys Centre, 11010-101 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2P4
Telephone no.: 427-7128

If you have any questions regarding scheduling or other details of classifying in your facility, please contact Medicus Canada in Edmonton at 428-7080.

Copies of this and previous Patient Classification Project progress reports may be obtained from:

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